

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for providing an interconnection relationship between a product and a desired location on a global communications network, comprising the steps of:

disposing a machine readable product code on the product, the machine readable product code having encoded product information contained therein, the product code having no routing information embedded therein which would allow the product code, in and of itself, to cause routing to the desired location over any path on the network;

reading the machine readable code at a user location on the network;

in response to the step of reading the machine readable product code, and without user intervention, decoding the product code; and

assembling a message packet containing the product information;

transmitting the message packet to an intermediate node on the network having associated therewith a database;

converting in the database the decoded product code to routing information over the network to the desired location, which routing information, embedded within an instructional code, is returned to the user location and defines the manner by which a user or a computer at a user location wherein the machine readable code was read can communicate with the desired location via an interconnection therewith;

receiving at the user location from the intermediate node on the network the instructional code that instructs the user node to connect to the desired location on the network; and

connecting the user location to the desired location in accordance with the received instructional code such that connection to the desired location is controlled by the intermediate node through the instructional code, wherein all connections to desired locations are controlled only by the intermediate node and not by any actions at the user location other than the operation of reading, and wherein actions at the user location do not prevent connection or affect connection to the desired location.

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2. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the product code comprises a UPC.

3. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the product code comprises an ISBN.

4. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the product code comprises an EAN.

5. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the routing information comprises a universal resource locator (URL) that comprises a unique locator on the network to the desired location.

6. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of converting comprises:
providing the database having stored therein an associative table which relates a plurality of product codes with associated locations on the network, each of the product codes having routing information to that associated location associated therewith; and

5 comparing the decoded information of the product code with the table in the database to determine the routing information.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of reading comprises scanning of the machine readable code with a bar code scanner and wherein the machine readable code comprises a bar code.

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